

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Cancelled)

2. (New) A system for communication with field equipment including an actuator, comprising:

a terminal adapted to receive and output natural speech;

a gateway adapted to convert speech into requests in machine readable form, said gateway having a first and a second software program loaded and executed thereon, said first software program being a speech/telephony platform which including methods for speech recognition, for converting text to speech and telephony functions, and said second software program being a speech browser having methods for the interpretation of VXML documents;

a telecommunications network interconnecting said gateway to said terminal;

an application computer including a server process and at least one field-equipment specific software program loaded and executed thereon; said field equipment specific software controlling said actuator in response to said requests in machine readable form; and

wherein said field equipment is in communication with said application computer and said application computer is in communication with said gateway.